



# Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

## September 2006

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Please note our new P.O. Box and Zip Code .**

**Welcome to Recycling Lines, We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at [gscoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoe@deq.virginia.gov).**

### America Recycles Day is November 15

The Virginia Recycling Association has ordered 1,000 posters that will be available upon request to localities to help promote recycling. These posters promote newspaper, aluminum can, plastic soda bottles and mixed paper recycling. If you would like some posters, contact Kelley Hope at (804) 359-8413 or [khope@cvwma.com](mailto:khope@cvwma.com). If you are in the Northern Virginia region, John Snarr of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has an allotment of posters to share with those in his region. He can be reached at (202) 962-3359 or [jsnarr@mwccog.org](mailto:jsnarr@mwccog.org).

Ms. Hope requests that localities that are planning to hold recycling events contact her at (804) 359-8413 or [khope@cvwma.com](mailto:khope@cvwma.com) so that she can publicize recycling events that will be happening throughout the Commonwealth.

To call an event an "America Recycles" event, you need to promote recycling in some way and recognize the America Recycles campaign by doing at least one of the following:

- ✓ Hang the America Recycles posters in locations where the event will occur.
- ✓ Encourage participation in the America Recycles Pledge Contest
- ✓ Include the America Recycles Logo on your promotional pieces in newspaper ads, flyers, website, etc)
- ✓ Have your locality/governing body make a proclamation of November 15<sup>th</sup> as "\_\_\_ Recycles Day" or November as "\_\_\_ Recycles Month."

To see how other localities recognized America Recycles Day/Month last year, go to [www.vrarecycles.org/ard\\_2005.htm](http://www.vrarecycles.org/ard_2005.htm) or contact Ms. Hope at (804) 359-8413 or [khope@cvwma.com](mailto:khope@cvwma.com)

### Expanding their Recycling Horizons

**Virginia Beach** public schools received large recycling containers for each school, blue recycling containers for each classroom and \$10,000 for a pilot recycling program expansion project courtesy of Tidewater Fibre Corp.

Many schools in the South Hampton Roads region have recycling programs, but are limited to recycling mostly cardboard and printer cartridges. Virginia Beach Public Schools will now be able to recycle paper, glass, plastic, aluminum and steel.

TFC Recycling handles Virginia Beach's curbside recycling program. They will collect the items collected at the schools and will process the materials at their plant. Contact John Kalocay, the Assistant Superintendent of Operations in Virginia Beach at (757) 385-4650 or [wastemgt@vb.gov](mailto:wastemgt@vb.gov).

### Did You Know?

- ✓ The Virginia statewide average recycling rate for CY 2005 was 32.2% as was calculated from the data submitted by 74 solid waste planning units.
- ✓ Litter Prevention and Recycling grants have been calculated for eligible jurisdictions for FY 2007 funding, and grant award processing has begun. DEQ will be rewarding \$1,560,749 in grants to jurisdictions for their litter prevention and recycling program activities.
- ✓ Washington, D.C. is trying out rubber sidewalks made from ground-up tires. Although the rubber squares are more expensive than concrete, they are more environmentally friendly because they provide a use for discarded tires and the rubberized tire sidewalks allow air and water to get to tree roots. Another added benefit to people walking on the rubberized sidewalks is that they are less likely to develop heel spurs, knee and back problems. If a person falls, the rubber sidewalks are also more forgiving than the traditional concrete sidewalks. To read more about the benefits of rubber sidewalks: <http://www.rubbersidewalks.com/>
- ✓ Beginning this month, Dell has started to offer free recycling for their computers regardless of whether or not the consumer purchases a new Dell to replace the outdated computer. Check out their new policy by going to: [http://www.dell.com/content/topics/segtopic.aspx/dell\\_recycling?c=us&cs=19&l=en&s=dhs](http://www.dell.com/content/topics/segtopic.aspx/dell_recycling?c=us&cs=19&l=en&s=dhs)
- ✓ Petroleum supplier PAPCO Inc. has opened the first public retail biodiesel pump at 4920 Southern Blvd. in **Virginia Beach**. Virginia Beach schools have started using a biodiesel blend for approximately one-third of their school bus fleet. Until recently, the Virginia Beach School board found it difficult to find biodiesel for their buses. Contact Chelsea Jenkins at (757)256-8528 or [cjenkins@hrccc.org](mailto:cjenkins@hrccc.org)
- ✓ **Fauquier County** invested \$1.2M to build a state-of-the-art Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling Facility with a minimum of 470 cubic yards per hour for mixed C&D waste. Contact Mike Dorsey at (540) 347-6811 or [mike.dorsey@fauquiercounty.gov](mailto:mike.dorsey@fauquiercounty.gov)

## Recycling Lines Continued

### Sustainable Blacksburg

The town of **Blacksburg** received DEQ's Virginia Environmental Excellence Award for their efforts in becoming a national leader in environmental stewardship. Blacksburg is the first municipality in the nation to register with the EPA's new National Partnership for Environmental Priorities Program. Blacksburg received a \$95,000 grant from the EPA to create partnerships with businesses in the town to develop recycling programs for products that emit chemical hazards and reduce waste through conservation measures and re-use.

This includes piloting a program to make electronics recycling free to citizens. It includes educating citizens and businesses to the importance of recycling items such as fluorescent lights and cadmium batteries. The town has also proposed eliminating the use of lead weights on town vehicles and replacing them with zinc or steel weights instead. Once that program is running smoothly, the town plans to work with local automotive businesses to educate them about the benefits of using weights that do not pose a threat to the environment as lead ones do when they fall off of vehicles.

To celebrate and promote good environmental stewardship, Blacksburg held their first annual Environmental Awareness Week August 21 – 26.

If you are interested in learning more about Sustainable Blacksburg, contact Susan Garrison, the Environmental Manager of the Town of Blacksburg at (540) 558-0786 or [sgarrison@blacksburg.gov](mailto:sgarrison@blacksburg.gov). To learn more about the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities go to: [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/partnership.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/partnership.htm). For more information from the EPA regarding the Resource Conservation Challenge, visit [www.epa.gov/rcc](http://www.epa.gov/rcc).

### Annual Environmental Excellence Awards

Eight Virginia businesses were recognized for environmental stewardship on September 13, 2006 at the Virginia Industry Environmental Conference which was held in Richmond. The event was hosted by DEQ and the Virginia Manufacturers Association. The winners were:

- ✓ **Virginia Port Authority** – For voluntarily cutting air pollution emissions 30 percent over six years while increasing cargo received by 55 percent.
- ✓ **Godd Schmidt** – For reducing nitrogen emissions by 74 percent and for reducing water consumption by 30 percent over two years.
- ✓ **International Paper** – For land-conservation and for their partnership with the Nature Conservancy to protect 20,830 acres of forest and 60 miles of streams.
- ✓ **JTEKT Automotive** – For recycling 81% of its waste stream and energy-conservation efforts.
- ✓ **Alcoa Inc.** – For energy and water conservation program.
- ✓ **Tyson Foods** – For reductions in water consumption.
- ✓ **Smithfield Foods** – For reducing wastewater generation and usage of natural-gas.
- ✓ **Smithfield Ham & Products Co.** – For oil recycling and reduction of propane use.

Contact Sharon Baxter at (804) 698-4344 or [skbaxter@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:skbaxter@deq.virginia.gov)

### Recycling Misnomers from the City of Harrisonburg

According to Meki Shifflett, the **Harrisonburg** Sanitation Superintendent; "People want to recycle, but sometimes the details get confusing." She finds that many residents believe that recycling is a highly profitable institution for the city. In reality, the money earned is a lot less than what residents might think. Harrisonburg has a curb-side pick up program. The recycling truck is often slower than the trash truck, so residents make the mistake of thinking that they have been bypassed by the recycling truck when in reality the truck hasn't gotten there yet.

Here are some common recycling mistakes made by Harrisonburg City Residents:

- ✓ Placing wet newspaper by the curb. Wet newspaper can't be used so it needs to be discarded. Also, the paper needs to be placed in the green recycling bin so that the drivers see it. If it's not in the bin, the drivers may miss it.
- ✓ Newspaper placed in plastic bags. The City of Harrisonburg requests that residents either tie their newspapers up with string or put them in paper grocery store bags. The city can't recycle the plastic bags and it takes too long to take the newspapers out of the bags.
- ✓ The City can only accept plastic containers that are marked with # 1 or #2 for recycling. Other containers are not accepted.
- ✓ Motor oil needs to be placed in a non-breakable container with a "screw" type lid. "Pop on" lids tend to get knocked open in the truck and make a mess.
- ✓ The City requests that used batteries be put in a bag so that they don't get lost in the jumble.

**What requests does your locality have for residents and businesses that recycle? Please share your experiences so that we can share them with others through Recycling Lines.**

If you are interested in learning more about Harrisonburg's recycling program, contact Meki Shifflett at (540) 433-6800 or [mekis@ci.harrisonburg.va.us](mailto:mekis@ci.harrisonburg.va.us)

### Upcoming Calendar of Events

#### September:

- 26 Virginia Sustainable Building Network (VSBN), James Madison University, Harrisonburg. 11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. To register and for more information call (703) 486-2966 or go to: [www.vsbnet.org](http://www.vsbnet.org)

#### October:

- 11 – 13 Virginia EMS Conference, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. Contact Bob Herbert at (540) 853-8275 or [bherbert@vt.edu](mailto:bherbert@vt.edu)
- 17 – 19 Energy Virginia Symposium. Virginia Military Institute, Lexington. <http://www.energyvacon.com>
- 25 – 27 14<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Annual Better Composting School, Ramada Hotel, Hanover, MD. (301) 405-1395 or <http://www.midatlanticcompost.org/>

#### November:

- 6 Virginia Recycling Association 2006 Membership Meeting. Omni Hotel, Charlottesville. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. To register go to: <http://www.vrrecycles.org/annual.htm>

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